
Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation. I am writing to object to the following Policies: SP PLI0, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PLS pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SAS4, page 374; Policy SA62 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 - all of which propose the dedesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes. All these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much-used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production. While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan. The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views

I object to the draft local plan on the following basis;

Local Facilities

- The loss of a major supermarket in the area will force people to have to drive further. This would especially affect elderly and disabled residents and increase car usage on local roads.
- No supporting community infrastructure planned which will lead to an overstretch of existing facilities such as schools, doctors' surgeries etc.
- With the Fords Grove car park going and 14% of car parking on Winchmore Hill Broadway having gone, this development will lead to a further loss of revenue to local shops leading to potential closures.

Impact on local residents

- The increase in vehicles on the road from potential residents of this development, will increase carbon monoxide levels which will impact locals and especially school children at Highfields school.

Environmental

- This development will lead to the destruction of habitat and woodlands – the site is home to at least three different species of woodpecker (greater/lesser spotted and green varieties) as well as trees with protection orders (poplars and oak trees)
- The green space is especially useful for residents who live in the surrounding flats and do not have gardens
- The area is used by families and elderly alike, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of all residents of Enfield

Other issues

- This development will need to offer housing in keeping with the character of existing housing in Winchmore Hill. Enfield residents require larger, affordable family housing which this development will not be able to offer.
- Inappropriate choice of site given the close proximity of existing traditional historical properties.
- This development will lead to an over development of the area given the recent and future developments along Green Lanes - Travis Perkins, Capitol House etc
- There will be construction vehicle disruption and increased building work traffic on a road (Green Lanes) already congested especially at peak times.
- There will be an impact on the skyline of Enfield and not in keeping with the existing character of the area.